THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Recycling Program) attended the 4th Annual Computers for Schools National Meetings in Ottawa, January 31 - February 2. The meetings were attended by representatives of Computers for Schools programs in operation throughout the country. The Nova Scotia program was represented by Mr. Bernie Hart, Chair Technology Recycling Steering Committee (Syntel Consultancy), Mr. Michael Nicksy, Coordinator Technology Recycling (Department of Education and Culture) and Mr. Michael Bowes, Pioneer Administrator (Telephone Pioneers of America, MT&T and IslandTel). Nationally, the Computers for Schools Program has a number of initiatives to celebrate. The program has delivered 50,000 computers to schools and libraries across the country since 1994. This year, the program received the Treasury Board Gold Metal of Distinction for its fiscal policy and implementation.

The Nova Scotia program was awarded the Gold Award for Production and a $5,000 grant for achieving more than 230% of expected deliveries of computers to schools and libraries in the province. This province also received the Silver Award for Innovation for its efforts in providing training and experience opportunities for youth and the community. Nova Scotia volunteer Kevin Scanlan was also honoured with the Outstanding Volunteer Award for Nova Scotia. Kevin has been a dedicated volunteer in the Halifax Refurbishing Centre for almost two years. He has given more than 1800 hours of volunteer time to the program.

NEWS FROM CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

According to the results of a random telephone survey of Canadian and U.S. residents sponsored by MCI LibraryLink, the public library has become the next most popular spot to access the Internet after the office and home. People are using libraries to surf the Web, send and receive e-mail, design Web pages and more. This can definitely be seen in Sydney, where more than 2500 people have registered to use Internet and e-mail at the McConnell Library. These high registration numbers ensure that the public access terminals are used over 90% of available time. As well, over 1200 people have taken advantage of Internet training sessions, including both adult and children's sessions, that are coordinated by the library and given by volunteer trainers.

But who are the people using the Library's Internet access and what are they using it for? The students who worked this winter on the CAP site at the McConnell Library were asked this question and from their answers, we can determine that there is no standard description as to who is using this service. There are, however, two groups who stand out. Young adults who are unemployed and not in school seem to be the most common users. They use Internet access mostly for Web page design, employment information, chat lines, games and e-mail. They are less likely to sign up for an Internet class and will instead teach themselves and each other how to use the technology.

The second distinct group that has been making use of the service is seniors. Seniors mainly use the Internet for research and e-mail and they are more likely to both take the training classes and ask assistance from staff. Many of the seniors who take the beginner Internet classes have never sat in front of a computer and are motivated by curiosity or a wish to get e-mail. This is true of a 70-year-old woman who came in recently for a training class. Like many seniors using the library Internet, her motivation for trying the technology was to obtain an e-mail account to stay in close contact with family. She now has an e-mail account which she uses to correspond with her daughter in the United States. -- Rosalie McGillis

The McLennan Collection is preserved for Posterity

The McLennan Family Digital Site will soon be available on SchoolNet. Under the direction of the Cape

Breton Regional Library, three students were hired with a Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions grant to develop the site. Using documents and pictures left to the library by the late Katharine McLennan, the site chronicles the achievements of Senator J.S. McLennan and his daughter Katharine.

Among their many interests, the McLennans developed much of the early research on the Fortress Louisbourg by visiting libraries and museums in Britain, France and Ottawa during the early 1900's and hand copying the documents J.S. required for his book. In fact, the book, Louisbourg: From its Foundations to its Fall is still considered by some historians to be the definitive work on early Louisbourg. Since much of the McLennan collection is fragile and not available to the public, this project allows the library to preserve a part of the local heritage and make it available to the public. The URL address will be posted in the May issue of the Disseminator.-- Rosalie McGillis

NEWS FROM WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Friends of the Library Proving Invaluable

It's only been two years since the first Friends of the Library group was formed, but the impact the groups have had on Western Counties Regional Library branches has been profound. Whether it's raising funds for more books or simply to "talk up" their library, the Friends groups are raising the profile of their community libraries. Currently, Friends of the Library groups have been established in Shelburne, Lockeport, Clare, Weymouth, Pubnico, and Clark's Harbour. Board Chairman David Irvine hopes to have groups established in Digby, Yarmouth, Westport and Barrington soon.

Simply put, Friends of the Library are groups of volunteers who work together to support the activities of their library. Working with branch staff, Friends quickly identify what is needed in their library. Friends groups across the region have held pie sales, auctions, flea markets, craft sales, and raffles to purchase items such as a fax machine, an answering machine, new table and chairs, supplies for children's programs, etc. Friends have also supported library events by organizing art shows, or providing refreshments when guest speakers are present. The motto of the Friends of the Library is Together we can do so much!" Their willingness to lend a helping hand is especially appreciated by branch staff.

Adopt-A-Book Campaign in Full Swing

Western Counties Regional Library is entering the 4th week of its region wide ADOPT-A-BOOK fundraising campaign. 564 books have been adopted as of April 23rd in Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth

counties. The campaign, sponsored by CJLS radio station, officially kicked off on April 3rd. The purpose is to provide more new books than the current budget will allow. The goal is to have at least 1000 new books adopted by June 30th. Campaign organizers are very pleased with the rapid response from the public. "At this point, we're almost a full month ahead of our first Adopt-A-Book campaign held in 1996", says campaign coordinator Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin. "Adopt-A-Book 96", also sponsored by CJLS, was a resounding success. The slogan of the campaign is "Hug Your Library ... Adopt-A-Book! "

The number of adoptions at any of the ten library branches in the Tri-Counties is readily noticeable by the number of signed, 6" red hearts, "symbolic of a library hug" that are on display. A book metre is also used to measure the progress of Adopt-A-Book, with a slot being coloured in for every 50 adoptions. Books are selected and paid for at each branch. A book adoption can be made by groups or individuals as a special gift, in memory of a loved one, or anonymously. A special bookplate bearing the adopter's name is placed in each book. The adopter is the first person to read his/her book. If a supporter chooses to make a cash donation, and does not specify any particular books, the branch staff will make selections based on what is needed at their branch. Tax receipts are issued for all donations or adoptions.

ATLANTIC WRITERS ARE MAKING WAVES

A Trio of Prizes

Juries of writing professionals from all over the region have been reading and reading since late January, and the short list is in. Over the past twenty-five years, the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) has built endowments to fund prizes recognizing the best writing in Atlantic Canada. The first, The Evelyn Richardson Award for Non-fiction, celebrates its twentieth anniversary in 1998. The Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize followed in 1991; and in 1998, WFNS is adding the Atlantic Poetry Prize. The winners will be announced at 4:00 pm, Thursday May 14 at a reception in the Lower Gallery of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (1741Hollis at Cheapside, Halifax).

Short listed for the inaugural Atlantic Poetry Prize are: Carole Langille for In Cannon Cave published by Brick Books and Carmelita McGrath for To the New World published by Killick Press. Short listed for the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Prize are: Harry Bruce for An Illustrated History of Nova Scotia published by Nimbus and Geoffrey W. Kent for Here Come the Vees! published by Nimbus also. Short listed for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize are: Shree Ghatage for Awake When All the World is Asleep published by Anansi and Edward Riche for Rare Birds published by Doubleday Canada.

10th Annual Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards

Between May 7th and May 27th there will be some free readings from authors nominated for the Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards. There will be also be a dinner and awards ceremony on Wednesday May 27th at the Dartmouth Holiday Inn. Please call 490-5887 for ticket information. The fiction finalists include Mary Pat Cude for The Bargain, published by Ragweed, Connie Barnes Rose for Getting Out of Town, published by Cormorant Books, and Betty Boudreau Vaughan for I'll Buy You an Ox, published by Nimbus. Non-fiction finalists include Harry Bruce's An Illustrated History of Nova Scotia published by Nimbus, On South Mountain by David Cruise and Allison Griffiths and published by Penguin, and Merritt Gibson's The Old Place, published by Lancelot Press.

For further information, please contact: Jane Buss or Joanne Merriam (902)423-8116; e-mail: writers1@fox.nstn.ca or visit the WFNS website at http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/WFNS

THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY & THE CANADIAN COMMUNICATION HOUSEHOLD STUDY

Ekos Research Associates Incorporated is the name of the firm which co-launched a project between the private sector and government to study the social and economic consequences of the information highway. Ekos has just released the first part of the study, **Information Highway and Canadian Communication Household Wave I Survey**. Findings are based on interviews with 3,522 Canadians conducted in September 1997. The study's partners include Canadian Heritage, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada, Rogers Cable Systems, Stentor Telecom Policy Inc., Bell Canada, Treasury Board Secretariat, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Wave I found that the movement toward an electronic communications household is dramatic in scope and is profoundly reshaping basic relationships between individuals and institutions. Frank Graves, the President of Ekos, says one of the areas where some of the largest shifts are occurring relate to the nature of work, and that 63 per cent of Canadians surveyed believe they will be working more of their time from home in the future. Please visit the Website for the summary report at http://www.ekos.com. Another phase of this project involves Libraries and the Internet and is due for release on May 15th. This latter phase has been commissioned by a LibraryNet group with representation from groups such as the Canadian Library Association, the National Library and the Canadian Association of Public Libraries.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Great Word on the Street Spelling Bee

On Canada Book Day, April 23rd, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library participated in the Spelling Bee organized by The Word on the Street. Proceeds go towards staging The Word on the Street festival which takes place on the last Sunday in September each year. Carole Compton-Smith and Gillian Webster raised $136.00 towards this good cause, while competing against teams from organizations like The Bookmark and The Chronicle-Herald.

New Library Project Taken on in Maitland

The tourist bureau in Maitland, Hants County, will soon also house a new library, created with volunteer labour and funds. Already, donations of books are pouring in and the Maitland and District Development Association (MDDA) is receiving offers of help in kind as well. Assistance has been given in the form of funding, training and space from the Hants Regional Development Agency, the Colchester-East Hants

Regional Library and the East Hants Tourism Association. Community members will staff the library, and anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact the MDDA library committee or the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library.

TRAINING NEWS

Training on Web NcompasS

Staff members from all of the regional libraries except Halifax have now received training in the new TAOS NcompasS online catalogue from Johanna Cooper. Altogether, 112 staff members were trained in 10 sessions. Response has generally been very positive. Staff have been impressed with the much more user friendly graphical interface. They have been most enthusiastic about the ability to search directly from hypertext links in records retrieved in an earlier search. Interlibrary loan staff, especially staff in those regional libraries that now have their own catalogues, welcomed the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously and merge search results.

Presentation to Library Technician Students on Two Library Associations

Andrea John, an instructor in the Library Technician Program, Nova Scotia Community College, invited a member of both the Halifax Library Association and the Nova Scotia Library Association to speak about the advantages of joining these library associations. Gillian Webster talked up the advantages of joining these organizations, which both promote co-operation and exchange of information between all types of libraries. Among the benefits mentioned were meeting new colleagues, learning new skills and being able to relay association experiences into something tangible on resumes.

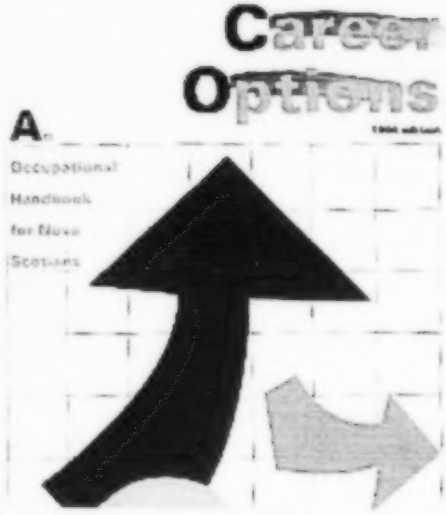
Training on Communicator, Netscape's HTML Editor

Liza Gagnon, Internet trainer, held a workshop for staff of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Learning Resources and Technology of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture on Netscape's Communicator HTML editor. During the 2 hour workshop Liza outlined the various features associated with web page composition, such as text and background editing, working with graphics and creating hypertext links to other documents. This was a very enjoyable session, and Liza gave a good overview of the basics. Participants briefly reviewed the site structure of the Provincial Library Web homepage, which is now being managed with a program called Microsoft FrontPage 98.

Career Options:An Occupational Handbook for Nova Scotians

The Handbook provides a wealth of information about the skills, education, salaries and future growth projections for a wide range of occupations. The Nova School School Libraries Association (NSSLA) and the Nova School Library Association (NSLA) had some input in revising the library entries in the new edition of the Career Options handbook, due out September 1998. There are currently four separate descriptions covering library assistant/technician, librarian, library manager, and school librarian. The new edition will have more "see" and "see also" references as a way of co-ordinating these library entries.

One of the biggest changes since the 1996 edition was released is that a teacher-librarian in Nova Scotia, formerly called a school librarian, must have a teaching certificate in addition to a master's degree in library and information studies. Another relatively recent change is the availability of a joint masters degree programs in librarianship and law which is available at Dalhousie University. Both these and other recent updates will be reflected in the latest edition. Thanks go to Patsy Kennedy, Research and Statistical Officer at the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture, who is in charge of revising the Handbook. -- Gillian Webster



DB/TextWorks Workshops

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted Introductory and Advanced level workshops on DB/TextWorks April 27th to 29th. The sessions were conducted by Judy Smith of JAS Information Services in Toronto. JAS Information Services is the exclusive marketing agent for InMagic DB/TextWorks in Canada. These sessions were attended by staff from the Provincial Library and Learning Resources & Technology, as well as staff from other libraries in the Atlantic region.

STAFFING NEWS

Appointment of Dalhousie University Librarian

William (Bill) Maes has been appointed University Librarian. His appointment is effective August 15th. Bill joins Dalhousie after a long and successful career in academic libraries in Western Canada, most recently as Director of the Office of Library and Information Services at the University of Regina. Bill served on the University of Regina's Deans' Council, a variety of senior executive committees and was an ex-officio member of its Senate. He has also played a leadership role in the development of the Internet in Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada, serving on the board of directors of CANARIE and CANet.-- President Tom Traves.

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Nancy Gaudet has accepted the position as Secretary effective April 23 until mid September when Debbie Ross returns from military leave. Nancy has worked with the Business Development Bank for 20 years where she held various positions in legal accounting and administrative fields. She is currently working on a certificate in Human Resources at St. Mary's University and welcomes the challenge and opportunity of working in the Department of Education and Culture.

LINKed

Some of the better Canadian Internet sites for seniors include these forums for discussion, electronic magazines, and guides to sites for seniors and health information.

Fifty-Plus.net, The Canadian Association of Retired Persons is at http://www.fifty-plus.net/CARPNews, the award-winning voice of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons is located here. It is Canada's largest national magazine aimed at the 50-plus audience. This site also has the "Back Fence" which you can join for free where there are chat rooms, discussion forums, "net friends", and archived issues of CARPNews. Links are provided to other sites of interest including two electronic magazines for seniors - **Our World 50+ The Online Magazine for Active Adults** at http://www.webresults.com/~ourworld/index.html and **Silver Threads** at

http://www.winnipeg.freenet.mb.ca/sthreads/

Seniors Computer Information Project at http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/crm/index.html is a highly acclaimed guide for retirees and older adults to Canadian and world-wide information, services and programs for seniors on the Internet. SCIP is a project of Creative Retirement Manitoba and was the first Web site targeted to seniors and retirees on the Internet.

HEALTH LINE at http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/crm/hl/index.html was established by Creative Retirement Manitoba to provide information regarding medical questions of particular concern to seniors especially the proper use of drugs. Information is provided in a question and answer format. Anyone can e-mail a question to the moderator, Ian Rollo, Ph.D. a retired Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Manitoba. A reply goes directly to the enquirer and as well the question will be added to the site to help others in a similar situation. There is useful information here but the contents could be better organized.

Canadian Senior Citizens Information and Services Centre at http://www.infoseniors.com/ provides Canadian Senior Citizens and their families with access to information on programs, services and events of concern to them.

Reflections:Health Tips for Seniors by the Dept. of Health and Community Services, New Brunswick at http://inter.gov.nb.ca/hcs/seniors/ is a bilingual site which covers topic of concern to seniors. The coverage of each topic also has links to related sites.

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact me at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca. - Carol Morris

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Featured here are two reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like the 1997 amendment to Chapter 72 of the Acts of 1897, the Lunenburg Common Lands Act.

A. This was found at The Nova Scotia Legislature site http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/ by clicking on "Bills" and scrolling down in the list of bills where the text of the first reading of this bill was found. This particular bill has not yet been assented to but when it and the other bills listed here are assented to, the assented to version is also listed here as well as at the Nova Scotia Statutes on the Internet page http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi/legc/legislat.htm. The Nova Scotia Statutes on the Internet page has the fulltext of the statutes from the 1995-96 to 1997 sessions that are in force plus over 100 additional statutes. The fulltext of other statutes are gradually being added to this site and all of them should be here eventually.

Q. Patron needs a manual for repairing the gas engine of a Massey-Harris tractor from the 1930's.

A. At the Alta Vista search engine the search words "Massey Harris" +manual were keyed in and this brought up the Yesterday's Tractors site at http://www.yesterdays-tractors.com/index.htm which has a manual section where manuals for different models of tractors are listed by model number and can be ordered. Another antique tractor site is Ageless Iron at

http://www.agriculture.com/sfonline/archive/sf/ageless/agiindex.html. This site has a Library section which has a list of addresses where service, shop and parts manuals and other literature for various makes and models of tractors including the Massey-Harris can be purchased. Both of these sites have a wealth of other information for the person who is interested in restoring antique tractors. - Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING:

In this month's column, two of our newest direct service oriented books are being featured. These items can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels.

1. Saricks, Joyce C. & Brown, Nancy - **Reader's Advisory Service in the Public Library**. 2nd edition. Chicago: American Library Association, 1997. (Call# Prof. 025 .527 Sar)
In this book, the reader's advisory service is defined as a "patron oriented library service for adult fiction readers". The authors purpose is to provide the fundamental tools to create, implement and continually improve reader's advisory services. It covers all the facets of providing such a service, including conducting the advisory interview, promoting the service and designing reading plans. This book is comprised of seven chapters, with a bibliography and an appendix which provides a popular fiction list.

2. Wolfe, Lisa - **Library Public Relations, Promotions and Communications**. (How-to-do-it Manual, No. 25). New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1997. (Call # Prof. 021 .7 Wol)
This book provides an introduction to the basic communications concepts, a step-by-step process for developing and implementing a library public relations / communications plan and descriptions of effective library communications tools and strategies. It includes the information and techniques needed to develop and implement an ongoing public relations plan for any type of library.